

SPHINX OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE PRESIDENT'S OPINION OF MR. FISK.

From the N. Y. Herald. We have the information from a special source at Washington that, on having his attention called in a recent conversation to the bold attempt of Fisk, Jr., on one of the South steamers last summer, to obtain from the President advance information of the financial policy of the Government, General Grant's reply was substantially this: "I don't know but I should have been insulted had it come from any other but a person like Fisk; but coming from a man so destitute of moral character, I didn't think it worth noticing."

THE TRUE TEST.

From the N. Y. Times. Increased efficiency in the collection of revenue and rigorous economy in expenditures, were prominent features of the platform on which General Grant was elected. The Republican party pledged itself to promote these objects, and General Grant was chosen to accomplish them.

The work of the first six months of the administration are known. They are not, indeed, the period by which the measures of any administration should be judged. At the outset of his career, there are obstacles to be overcome arising from the action or non-action of his predecessor, there is an experience to be gained, and a start to be made under all the disadvantages which attend the inauguration of a new departmental régime.

The aggregate increase of revenue falls little short of twenty millions, considerably more than four-fifths of which have been derived from internal sources—precisely those sources which, under Mr. Johnson's rule, were most neglected. On the other hand, the decrease in expenditures—army, navy, and civil service—approach very nearly thirty-seven millions—the exact gain being \$56,461,157, as compared with the transactions of Mr. Johnson's administration during the corresponding half of 1868.

And the good work goes on with an almost absolute certainty that the proportion of gain will hereafter be yet larger. The administration is doing its duty, and the country will reap the profit.

CHANGE OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN ENGLAND.

From the N. Y. Herald.

By the Atlantic cable we have a condensed synopsis of the editorial remarks published by the leading journals of London in comment on the life and public services of the late Earl of Derby. The writers accord him all good qualities as a private gentleman and refined and polished scholar, but they step aside to condemn or repudiate his "impulsiveness" in politics, as well as to proclaim that he lacked a "statesmanlike temperament" completely. Even his chivalrous British conservatism is contrasted, and in an unfavorable light for his memory, side by side with the radical democracy of Italy, and held forth as having been far inferior in its patriotic expression to that which now animates the promoters of the Irish Church Disestablishment bill and such like advanced measures. It is alleged every day that "republicans are ungrateful," but what will be said of the public men of Britain who write up the monarchy to-day in the country? We suspect, however, that there is a good deal of political party tactic manœuvre in all this, and that it is used by the old school Tories of England with the view of running the present Earl of Derby, with his workingmen and trades unionists friends, off the track in the contest for the leading prize in the new field of English politics.

AYER.

From the N. Y. World.

"Doctor" Ayer is a medicine man of renown, who resides in the Seventh Congressional district of Massachusetts. He has recently been moved by a laudable ambition to represent that bean-eating constituency in Congress. The nominating convention recently met at Concord, and with much discord flung the doctor overboard. They appointed as their standard-bearer George M. Brooks, who thus becomes one of the running brooks in which, according to the dramatist, books are sometimes discerned as sermons, are in stones and milk in coconuts. Why the convention should have rejected the doctor does not appear. Whatever the abilities or the celebrity of the latter, they can scarcely outweigh the claims of the man who has unlocked the bowels of mankind, from the Arctic circle to Patagonia. He has purged a hundred peoples. Is it strange that he should now desire to "purge the general weal"? He has expatriated the iliac ducts of kings, the pancreatic regions of chancellors, the biliary receptacles of statesmen, and it certainly is not surprising that, having exhausted the possibilities of the phlegmatic poia, he should now desire to dispense moral and political purgatives on a wider scale. But fate and the convention say no. The

doctor is rendered back to his dispensary. He resumes the pebble and the mute mortar again resounds, and rhubarb and aloë and gamboge, in concourse more or less fortuitous, assemble in pills or float in fluids till commerce dispenses them throughout the habitations of men. This employment is not so exciting nor quite so ornamental as that of making speeches in Congress and sitting wearily on committees, but it is far more useful to the human race. Did the doctor's ambition cloud his perception of the consequences of thus laying aside the apron of the apothecary for the toga of the legislator? Did he adequately comprehend the constipation which would ensue; the epigastric qualms, the mesenteric agues, the lumbar pangs, the colics, which would set marching howling, throughout the globe? Probably not. He must have deemed the thirty years wherein he had enforced the brisk purgation of the peoples a regulatory discipline which would last them over one session of Congress at least. It is proper, however, to assure him that even so brief an absence from his usual function might have been attended with consequences of a costive character; which he would deplore, and for which his services to the State, however eminent, would be an inadequate recompense.

It is due, however, to the truth of history to state that the nominating convention did not reject the doctor because it was unwilling to withdraw him from his professional pursuits. The constituency demurred. They were willing to take the doctor's pills and wear his plasters and peruse his cogent and unanswerable almanac. But they didn't want him to cobble their laws. A pamphlet has been sent to us which reviews, with temperance of phrase but severity of implication, the doctor's character, and estimates the validity of his pretensions. From it we gather that he is not a gun of great dimensions. He would not go off in Congress with a very loud report. The reviewer says that his faults are "the petty meanness of a petty nature," and that they "create only derision and disgust." Although he is enormously rich, he has done nothing with his money more public spirited or benevolent than to invest it in the best securities he could find. He has endowed no school, no hospital, no charity of any kind; no scholarship in college or academy, no benefaction to church or library, attests his regard for learning or his devotion to religion. Like necessity, he is reputed to know no law, and the reviewer adds, with ominous reserve, that "the particular discussion of his character could not fail to be disagreeable," and he therefore foregoes it.

But a darker and more specific insinuation about the doctor was bruited abroad, and, if we may employ so rude a phrase, it cooked his goose effectually. We don't want to injure the sale of his chologogues and anthelmintics, and we repeat the imputation with pain; but the truth must be told. The doctor was accused of being a chief proprietor of the principal radical newspaper published in this city, and of being, of course, morally responsible for the injurious and dangerous insinuations of that journal. What there is in the conduct of the Tribune which makes it so objectionable to Massachusetts Republicans we don't know. It merely reiterates the same foolish arguments and reiterates the same arid formulas which they employ upon the stump and exploit in lectures and air in Congress and Legislature; but the action of the convention, in thus contemptuously rejecting its chief proprietor, is conclusive of the estimation in which it is held. As soon as they found that the doctor was a stockholder of the turnip and strawberry organ, and the friend of Greeley, they threw him over at once; and it was proposed to incorporate with the platform a clause warning Republicans in good standing from taking any more of his pills. We are sorry for the doctor, and think he ought to sell out his newspaper stock and piously endeavor to recover his medical standing. His political hopes are, of course, finally quenched. Nothing, therefore, remains to him except to infuse more drastic elements into his medicines and more benevolence into his private life. So shall he recover the goodwill of his fellow-citizens and patients and the approbation of his own conscience, and finally leave no prescription or recipe which, dtying, he would wish to blot.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

From the N. Y. Sun.

If revolutions could be made to order, and delivered on a day appointed in advance, we ought to have heard before this that Louis Napoleon had been driven from the throne of France, and either that an Orleansist or a Bourbon king had succeeded him, or that the French Republic had been proclaimed anew. Yesterday was the last day of the period of six months since the dissolution of the old Legislature within which, according to the French Constitution, the newly-elected Legislature must be called together. The Emperor, disregarding the requirement, has fixed the 29th of November as the day of meeting. He is forewarned as well as forewarned, and if he is worsted in the encounter, it will be because his old ability has deserted him.

Still, it is only too evident that France is in a condition extremely unfavorable to the future prospects of the reigning monarch. The workingmen are excited to an alarming degree; half Paris is on a strike; formidable riots have occurred within a few weeks at various places; and the liberty newly granted to the press has been availed of to give expression to the most bitter hatred of the Emperor and ardent wishes for the restoration of the republic. The emissaries of the Duke of Orleans are as busy as the radical demagogues in fanning these sparks into flames, and though they may be arrested and imprisoned, that will not extinguish the disaffection. The Emperor must be at his wit's end to know what to do.

To us Americans the moral of this crisis in France is obvious. It is that no government is so stable as that which the people are allowed by law to make for themselves. It is not questioned that Louis Napoleon is as able and patriotic a ruler as any whom the suffrages of French voters would be likely to elect. He has conducted the affairs of the nation, as President and Emperor, with consummate skill for more than twenty years. Internally the country has prospered in manufactures, commerce, and the accumulation of wealth. Externally, she is feared and respected as much, if not more, than in the proudest days of her past history. The Italian campaign of 1859 was worthy of Julius Cæsar; while the improvements of the city of Paris recall the achievements of Augustus. Yet in spite of all this, the French people are restless and dissatisfied, because they are denied that personal liberty and share in the affairs of State so dear to every patriotic citizen. If they knew that they could get rid of their Emperor whenever they pleased, they would probably keep him in office till he died; but the more he tries to be independent of their will, the more determined they will be on effecting his downfall.

THE FINANCIAL POLICY—WHAT WILL IT BE?

From the Pittsburg Commercial.

The heads of the several departments of the Government are understood to be engaged on the preliminary work of framing the annual report. Certain parts of these the President will require a considerable time prior to the assembling of Congress to enable him to prepare his message. The greatest interest will centre on the finances and it is fair to presume that President Grant and Secretary Boutwell are prepared to recommend a distinct policy for the future. What it will be in a general sense the course pursued by Mr. Boutwell pretty distinctly indicates. The central idea will be the funding of the debt at a low rate of interest. To this there will be an obstacle at the threshold—the exchanging of six per cent. bonds must be furnished with an indenture for securing the same for others of a lower rate of interest. What will the Secretary recommend as such indenture? On this point it is reasonable to expect the Secretary will be prepared to make practical recommendations to Congress. 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